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BUSH CHOICE AS CIA BOSS DRAWS FIRE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senators and congressmen expressed shock Tuesday that President Ford is naming George Bush, a former Republican national chairman, as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).



GEORGE
BUSH

Although various members of the House and Senate expressed personal high regards for the former Texas congressman, the criticism was aimed at "the politicizing of the CIA" in the aftermath of Watergate.

"If there is one thing we should have learned from the Watergate experience, it is the danger of the politicizing of agencies with intelligence responsibilities," said Representative Otis Pike (Dem., N.Y.), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

"The problems of misusing the agencies arose because of efforts to use them for political partisan purposes," Pike said, "and the appointment of a political chairman seems to me to disregard all the lessons we should have learned."

Jackson "Concerned"

Senator Henry M. Jackson (Dem., Wash.), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee that will approve or reject the Bush nomination, said he was "deeply concerned" about mixing partisan politics with the intelligence functions.

"What we need in these jobs are true nonpartisan professionals, and we should make every effort to avoid the contamination of partisan politics or the appointment of a director who appears to be a political figure," Jackson said.

Senator Dick Clark (Dem., Ia.), a member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, declared that he "understands the President's desire to want someone in this post that he feels close to politically and personally, but politics has been the problem of CIA and appointing a Republican national chairman doesn't help matters."

"They are firing William Colby (as director of CIA) because he was too cooperative with Congress in the investigations of the CIA operations," Clark said. "There has been a lot of discussion in the Senate today that President Ford will use his friend and political associate to end some of that cooperation to satisfy the right wing of the Republican party."

Questions "Propriety"

Senator John Culver (Dem., Ia.) said he has known Bush for years and likes and respects him, but "can't help wondering about the propriety of appointing a former national political chairman to this particularly sensitive post which manifestly should be as far removed from partisan politics as it is possible to get."

"When Mr. Ford said he wanted his own team, he really meant it," Culver said. "But gamesmanship is not necessarily statesmanship."

Culver, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, noted that in the past it had been the custom to reward a former national chairman with appointment as postmaster general.

Senator William Proxmire (Dem., Wis.) declared that while Bush is "capable, intelligent . . . and widely respected" that "these impressive qualifications are secondary to the one vital consideration."

"Don't Mix"

"Politics and intelligence do not mix," Proxmire said in indicating that he will oppose the Bush nomination.

"The CIA director should not be a team player, a yes-man, a political confidant, a philosophical companion," Proxmire said in Mr. Ford's need for a "team."

Representative Neal Smith (Dem., Ia.) said he was surprised Bush would be named to head CIA "in the wake of the Watergate experience. I think it is bad judgment to name a political figure regardless of his general ability," Smith said.

Smith said he believed that "Schlesinger was the most competent man in the Ford cabinet, and the most straightforward to deal with."